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# Advocate of Peace.

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## Secretary Bryan's Peace Plan.

Secretary of State Bryan, as was to have been expected, has lost no time in putting forward his suggestions in regard to a plan for the further advancement of world peace. In an interview with the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs he has communicated to the Senators who will first have to pass upon any convention which may be submitted by the President, the essential features of a treaty of arbitration which it is understood will be drafted and sent in to the Senate in the near future for ratification.

By this course certain criticisms which the Taft treaties encountered will be avoided. Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs complained that they had not been consulted before the treaties were sent in by the President. As the Senate is an essential part of the treaty-making power, they felt that they had not been treated fairly by the withholding from them of the contents of the conventions until

they were presented to the Senate in completed form. Whether this had anything to do with the fate of the treaties negotiated by the last Administration, we can not say, but at any rate no such obstacle will meet the new treaties when the President refers them to the Senate. Further than this, Mr. Bryan has virtually taken the whole country into his confidence by allowing to be published the essential features of his plan. All this, we are sure, will contribute to a favorable reception of such treaties as shall be negotiated, by both the Senate and the country. The members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs were, for the most part, favorably impressed with Mr. Bryan's presentation of his proposals to them, and the general public also, as represented by the press, has shown itself favorable. This latter was of course to be expected after the widespread and cordial endorsement of the Taft treaties.

The essential features of the Administration's plan—for President Wilson and Secretary Bryan are in full accord about it—are about as follows, so far as can be gathered from what has been given out:

1. First, the negotiation of arbitration treaties with not only Great Britain and France, as was done by the former Administration, but also with Germany and all other powers which may be ready to enter into agreement with us.

2. Second, the inclusion within these treaties of the obligation to arbitrate all controversies of whatever nature that may arise between the contracting parties, no exception being made of questions of national honor and vital interests.

3. The insertion in the treaties of an agreement between the parties that in the case of any controversy which either of them may hold to be improper to submit to arbitration a commission of inquiry shall be appointed to investigate and make report on the facts of the case, the investigation not to be considered as an arbitration and the report to have no binding force, no acts of hostility in the meantime to be committed by either of the powers. Mr. Bryan believes that though the report of such a commission, after careful inquiry into the facts, may have no binding force, yet the delay thereby secured would give time for reconsideration and for assuagement of feelings, and that thus war would practically always be avoided. The successful employment, in the Dogger Bank affair, of the commission of inquiry provided for in the Hague Convention goes far to establish the soundness of this reasoning. The plan of Mr. Bryan means only the further carrying out of the same principle by introducing it into a treaty in an obligatory form, instead of leaving it entirely vol-